

## Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME)

### Summary of Findings and Recommendations

July 2014

#### 1. Background

The main objective of the CFSME was to assess the vulnerabilities, food security situations and living conditions of the registered Syrian refugee population in Jordan host communities. Nearly 8,000 Syrian refugee households were interviewed by WFP's partner REACH in all districts of Jordan; 7,089 in communities and 745 in Za'atri camp.

#### 2. Findings

This CFSME found that only 1.6% of household surveyed had a poor Food Consumption Score and 6% of surveyed households were overall food insecure, meaning the prevalence of food insecurity was relatively low amongst the Syrian refugee population in Jordan, mostly due to WFP's food assistance which is reaching 98 percent of registered Syrian refugees in host communities. In addition, 74% of households cited the WFP voucher as their main source of income. Overall, the CFSME found that while refugees have a higher level of vulnerability upon arrival, vulnerability decreases upon receipt of WFP assistance for a short period of time. However, after a year, refugees increasingly adopt coping strategies to meet their basic needs and thus become more vulnerable to food insecurity.

The table below shows the level of food security in communities and Za'atri camp:

	Food secure	Vulnerable to food insecurity	Food insecure
Refugees in communities	52%	42%	6%
Za'atri camp	12%	82%	6%

#### Where are the food insecure?

- The governorates with the highest number of food insecure households were Mafraq, Irbid and Amman, however these governorates also have the highest populations of refugees. In terms of percentage of food insecure households within governorates, the highest percent food insecure were located in Ajloun (16.5%), Madaba (12.8%), Balqa (11.8%) and Tafilah (8.2%) governorates. When analyzed by district, some districts had higher levels of food insecurity such as in Dair Allah in Al Balqa Governorate where 37.3% of households are food insecure.
- Al Aqaba and Jerash governorates have among the highest proportions of food secure households (71.2% and 66.3% respectively).

#### Who are the food insecure and what are the underlying factors?

- Given only 32% of households had one or more member employed at the time of the assessment, those with no other income source aside from the WFP voucher as well as those with unskilled labour jobs were the most food insecure.
- Female heads of household were no more likely than male heads of household to be food insecure, however, widowed heads of household were far more likely to be food insecure than most other static variables.

- The continuation of food assistance - 74 percent of households are heavily or completely reliant on food assistance as their main source of income and food. Due to continued WFP assistance, food insecurity levels are low, however, 42 percent are still vulnerable to food insecurity and six percent are food insecure. If WFP were to cease food assistance, this would have a dramatic impact on the food security situation of Syrian refugees; extrapolating expenditure data to show the impact without WFP assistance indicates an estimated 85 percent of refugees would not have economic access to sufficient food. Therefore, WFP must continue food assistance to Syrian refugees.
- Targeting based on need in communities - Targeting should be carried out within the context of the interagency Vulnerability Analysis Framework (VAF) and should allow assistance to reach those in need while minimizing error. Targeting of food assistance in communities should be done in multiple stages to minimize error and recalibrate thresholds.
- Sustainability - Humanitarian agencies should work with government counterparts to find more durable, mid-term solutions to allow Syrian refugees to diversify the support received, thus decreasing their dependency on WFP food assistance in the future and increasing self-reliance.